

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant makes the following remarks and amendments above based in part on a telephone discussion with the examiner on or about June 16, 2004. Applicant believes that the claims, as written are allowable and requests the examiner reinstate the allowance of those claims previously allowed, as well as the amended claims and newly added claims.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

1. Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 14-18, 21-23, 27, 29, 33, 36-39, 42, 44-50, 52, 54, 58, 59, 61, 65, 66 and 67

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 16, 44, 60 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fawley (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0095905). Fawley is directed to wrapping wood utility poles with strips of a composite material. Fawley does not teach or disclose, however, a method for reinforcing a wood support member as set forth in independent claims 1, 16, 44, 60 and 61.

In the telephone interview with the examiner, applicant understood that the examiner was looking for clarification in the method claims, to the extent possible, to indicate that at least one layer of the composite wrapping was being formed by joining a plurality of strands and wrapping the plurality of strands around the pole/piling. Applicant believes that as those claims have been amended, and as previously presented, the clarification sought by the examiner is satisfied.

In addition to the above clarification, Fawley does not teach or disclose at least one element in each of the above referred independent claims. With respect to claim 1,

Fawley does not teach or disclose forming at least one layer of composite wrapping around the wood support member by rotating the wood support member and winding the plurality of strands thereon. With respect to claim 16, Fawley does not teach joining and applying a plurality of strands to a wood support piling to form at least one reinforcing layer of composite wrapping.

With respect to claims 44, 60 and 61, Fawley does not teach or disclose winding a multiple-tow bundle of fibers about a wood pole and maintaining said fibers under tension to form at least one layer of composite wrapping. At best, Fawley teaches wrapping strips of material on a pole to form a composite wrapping.

Accordingly, applicant believes that independent claims 1, 16, 44, 60 and 61, as amended are allowable over Fawley, and requests that those claims be reallowed by the Examiner. Likewise, applicant believes that the claims depending from those independent claims are allowable as presented.

2. Claims 17-28 and 29-44

The Examiner rejected independent claims 17 and 29, and the claims depending therefrom, as also being anticipated by Fawley. As discussed in the prior office action response, Fawley absolutely does not teach or disclose application of a radial compressive force to the wood support member by the composite wrapping. Relying on page 4, paragraph 40, the examiner suggest that Fawley somehow teaches applying a radial compressive force by “applying tensile strength component of the filaments to the wood body (20) in a circumferential direction.” Fawley, however, makes no such teaching or disclosure. Rather, Fawley is referring to the tensile strength of the

composite wrapping and how to improve tensile strength by altering the winding angle and direction, not applying a radially compressive force. See pg. 4, ¶¶ 40. Accordingly, independent claims 17 and 29, as amended, are allowable over Fawley. Likewise, the claims that depend from independent claims 17 and 29 are also allowable.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

The Examiner also rejected several dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious based on Fawley and in view of Owens (claims 7, 9, 11, 12, 19, 20, 24, 25, 30-32, 34, 35, 40, 51, 53, 55, 56, 62 and 63), or Williams et al. (claims 13, 28, 43, 57, 64, and 68). As these are all claims that depend on independent claims that applicant believes are now in a condition for allowance, as discussed above, applicant respectfully requests that these claims also be allowed.

New Claims 69-71

Applicant has added new claims 69-71. Applicant believes these claims to be allowable and that no new matter has been added. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner also allow claims 69-71.

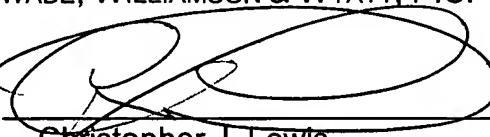
CONCLUSION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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